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Letter dated 26 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a comment by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, dated 24 January 2018, regarding unlawful actions against citizens of Ukraine who have been illegally transferred from the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea to the Russian Federation (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (c), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 26 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Comment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, dated 24 January 2018, regarding unlawful actions against citizens of Ukraine who have been illegally transferred from the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea to the Russian Federation

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine demands that the Russian Federation immediately stop its unlawful actions against citizens of Ukraine who have been illegally transferred from the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea to the Russian Federation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine strongly protests against the unlawful and inhumane actions of the Russian side against the following citizens of Ukraine: Muslim Aliyev, Emir-Usayin Kuku, Vadym Siruk, Enver Bekirov, Refat Alimov and Arsen Dzhepparov, who have been illegally transferred from the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea to the Russian Federation following a fabricated criminal case brought against them before the Severnokavkazsky District Military Court.

All lawful petitions filed by the defence during the today's preliminary hearing have been rejected without any legal grounds, which points to the court's unjust and biased attitude.

According to defendants, they have been treated in an inhumane and humiliating manner, diminishing their human dignity, and have experienced repeated beatings, discrimination by nationality and psychological pressure while being transferred from the territory of the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea to the Russian Federation.

The Ukrainian side considers such actions as a deliberate neglect by the Kremlin of its international obligations, in particular those enshrined in the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

We urge the aggressor State to put an immediate end to the farcical, unlawful trial of the Ukrainian citizens listed above and to take all necessary and comprehensive measures to restore their rights.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine calls on the world community to publicly condemn the occupying country and to compel it to stop committing crimes against the inalienable fundamental human rights of the population living in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.